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Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the General Assembly on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields*

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* The report of the Ad Hoc Working Group is before the General Assembly as document A/57/48. The final text of the report will be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 48* (A/57/48).

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I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 57/270 of 20 December 2002, the General Assembly decided to establish an open-ended ad hoc working group under the chairmanship of the President of the Assembly, with two vice-chairmen to be elected by the working group, to produce concrete recommendations to ensure an integrated and coordinated follow-up to the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields.

2. By the same resolution, the General Assembly also decided that the working group would commence its substantive work during the fifty-seventh session of the Assembly, no later than January 2003, and would submit its report before 27 June 2003, for consideration by the General Assembly and action before the close of the fifty-seventh session in 2003.

3. The Working Group held 14 formal meetings on 27 January, 3, 4, 7 and 24 February, 27 March, 22 April, 12 and 13 May and 4, 5, 6, 13 and 17 June 2003. The Working Group also held a series of informal meetings between January and June 2003.

4. The President of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, Mr. Jan Kavan (Czech Republic) served as Chairman of the Working Group.

5. At its 1st meeting, on 27 January 2003, the Working Group elected Mr. Jean de Ruyt (Belgium) and Mr. Nana Effah-Apenteng (Ghana) as Vice-Chairmen by acclamation. The two Vice-Chairmen also served as Co-Chairmen of the informal meetings.

6. At its 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th meetings, on 27 January and on 3, 4, 7 and 24 February, the Working Group considered its work programme, including the issue of periodicity and duration of its meetings.

7. At its 4th meeting, on 7 February, the Working Group approved the following agenda (A/AC.269/1) for its work:

> "1. Integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits, at national, regional and international levels:
>
> - The role of Member States;
> - The role of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions;
> - The role of other relevant institutional stakeholders;
> - The role of other relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector;
> - Review of progress in the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits.

"2. Integrated and coordinated follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/270, paragraph 2:

- The role of the General Assembly;
- The role of the Economic and Social Council:
  - ° Functional commissions;
  - ° Regional commissions;
  - ° Governing bodies of funds and programmes;
- The role of the United Nations system, including specialized agencies.

"3. Consideration of the work of the plenary of the General Assembly and its Second and Third Committees relevant to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the modalities of reports presented to the General Assembly.

"4. How best to address the review of the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including format and periodicity.

"5. Other matters."

II. Consideration of draft proposals

8. At the 7th meeting of the Working Group, on 22 April, a draft resolution was presented by the representative of Morocco (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China),[1] and written proposals were presented by Greece (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Canada (also on behalf of Australia, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland), the United States of America, Japan, Mexico and Croatia.

9. At its 8th meeting, on 9 May, the Working Group authorized the Bureau to consolidate the proposals presented at its 7th meeting and to present a working paper to the group at its subsequent meeting.

10. At its 9th meeting, on 12 May, the Co-Chairman, Mr. Effah-Apenteng, introduced the working paper submitted by the Bureau.

11. At its 10th meeting, on 13 May, the Co-Chairman, Mr. Effah-Apenteng, made a statement on the organization of work of the Working Group.

12. At the 11th meeting, on 27 May, the Co-Chairman, Mr. Effah-Apenteng, made a statement. At the same meeting, the Bureau nominated Mr. Henri Stephan Raubenheimer (South Africa) as facilitator for the informal process.

13. At the 12th meeting, on 6 June, the Co-Chairman, Mr. Effah-Apenteng, made a statement on the organization of work of the Working Group.

[1] Subsequently issued in document A/AC.269/L.1.

14. At the 13th meeting, on 13 June, the Co-Chairman, Mr. Effah-Apenteng, made a statement on the organization of work of the Working Group.

III. Action taken by the Ad Hoc Working Group

15. At its 14th meeting, on 17 June 2003, the Working Group had before it the text of a draft resolution entitled "Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields", in English only.

16. At the same meeting, before the adoption of the draft resolution, the Co-Chairmen of the Ad Hoc Working Group, Mr. Jean de Ruyt and Mr. Nana Effah-Apenteng, made statements.

17. At the same meeting, the Ad hoc Working Group was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

18. At the same meeting, the Secretary read out corrections to the draft resolution.

19. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Morocco (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Greece (on behalf of the European Union), the United States of America, Switzerland and Croatia.

20. At the same meeting, after the adoption of the draft resolution, concluding statements were made by the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group, Mr. Jan Kavan (Czech Republic), by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and by the Facilitator, Mr. Henri Stephan Raubenheimer (South Africa).

21. Also at the 14th meeting, the Ad Hoc Working Group decided to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution contained in section IV of the present report.

22. At the same meeting, the Ad Hoc Working Group adopted its draft report contained in document A/AC.269/L.2, as orally amended by the representative of Morocco (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China).

IV. Recommendation

23. The Ad Hoc Working Group recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/227 of 24 May 1996 and 57/270 of 20 December 2002,

Recalling also the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

Considering that, after more than a decade of such events, progress in implementation has been insufficient and therefore the time has come to vigorously pursue their effective implementation,

Recalling the Millennium Declaration,[2]

Recognizing that the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, offer a framework for planning, reviewing and assessing the activities of the United Nations for development,

Reaffirming that sustainable development is a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities, in particular for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,

Reaffirming also that the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, provide a comprehensive basis for action at the national, regional and international levels with the key objectives of poverty eradication, sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

Recognizing that peace, security, stability and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, as well as respect for cultural diversity, are essential for achieving sustainable development and ensuring that sustainable development benefits all,

Emphasizing the importance of integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits, bearing in mind the need to respect the thematic unity of each conference and the interlinkages between them,

Bearing in mind the ongoing process of reform of the United Nations,

Recognizing the need to strengthen political impetus in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits,

I. Integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits at the national, regional and international levels

The role of Member States

1. *Emphasizes* that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development, and the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized; that, at the same time, domestic economies are now interwoven with the global economic system and, inter alia, the effective use of trade and investment opportunities can help countries to fight poverty, and that national development efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment; and encourages and supports development frameworks initiated at the regional level, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development and similar efforts in other regions;

[2] See resolution 55/2.

2. *Reaffirms*, in this context, that the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, requires an enhanced partnership between donor and recipient countries, based on the recognition of national leadership and ownership of development plans, as well as sound policies and good governance at the national and international levels;

3. *Stresses*, in this context, that all countries should promote policies consistent and coherent with the commitments of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including those systemic in nature, in order, inter alia, to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

Means of implementation

4. *Stresses* the importance of means of implementation as identified in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and reaffirms that the implementation of those outcomes requires the urgent fulfilment by all countries of their commitments relating to means of implementation as contained in the relevant paragraphs of the conference outcome documents, including the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation[3] and the Monterrey Consensus;[4]

Institutional frameworks

5. *Stresses* the importance of institutional frameworks as identified in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits;

The role of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and the World Trade Organization and other relevant institutional stakeholders

6. *Emphasizes* that the United Nations system has an important responsibility to assist Governments to stay fully engaged in the follow-up to and implementation of agreements and commitments reached at the major United Nations conferences and summits, and invites its intergovernmental bodies to further promote the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits;

7. *Calls upon* the governing bodies of the funds and programmes to ensure that the policy guidance from the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits is integrated into their programme of work and translated into their operational activities;

8. *Stresses* that the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system should incorporate in their programme of work, in accordance with their respective mandates, the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, and take them into account for the operational work and country frameworks of the organs of the United Nations system, in accordance with national development objectives and priorities;

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[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

9. *Recommends* greater cooperation at the national, regional and international levels among the United Nations organizations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, based on a clear understanding and respect of their respective mandates and governance structures;

10. *Calls for* enhanced coordination among heads of international agencies to ensure integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits;

11. *Underlines*, in this context, that the inter-agency guidelines for operational activities for development of the United Nations system and the work of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the United Nations Development Group should reflect the agreements and commitments reached at the major United Nations conferences and summits;

12. *Invites* the Secretary-General, utilizing the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to further promote system-wide inter-agency coordination and cooperation to implement the agreements and commitments reached at conferences; and requests the Secretary-General to continue to report on the activities of the Board in this regard;

13. *Recognizes* the progress achieved towards a more coherent United Nations performance in the development field, as reflected by a new culture of shared responsibility, cooperation and coordination among the members of the United Nations Development Group; in this regard, invites the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in his capacity as chair of the United Nations Development Group, to present, on a regular basis, to the Economic and Social Council at its coordination segment, the activities carried out by the United Nations Development Group related to the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits;

14. *Emphasizes* that the agencies should continue to improve their operational guidelines, results-based management and multi-year work programmes, and deepen further inter-agency cooperation on the implementation of conference outcomes;

15. *Also emphasizes* the importance of ensuring, under the leadership of national Governments, greater consistency between the strategic frameworks developed by the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and the national poverty reduction strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist;

16. *Calls upon* the regional commissions, within their respective mandates, to further strengthen and enhance the effectiveness of their activities and improve their coordination with the entire United Nations system with regard to the implementation and the review of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in order to ensure the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

17. *Reiterates* the need for a substantial increase in resources for operational activities for development, on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, to enable the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to contribute

effectively to the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits;

18. *Also reiterates* the need for continuous overall improvement in the effectiveness, efficiency, management and impact of the United Nations system in delivering its development assistance;

19. *Affirms* that the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization have an important role to play in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and in this regard welcomes their efforts to deepen further their interaction with the United Nations and their engagement with the financing for development process in particular, and encourages them to continue their efforts to ensure the effective implementation of commitments reached in the Monterrey Consensus with the aim of achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

20. *Calls* for greater coherence, coordination and cooperation between the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, and other relevant institutional stakeholders, such as regional development banks and other organizations, at the international, regional and national levels, within their respective competencies, mandates and comparative advantages, and working with recipient Governments in full accordance with national priorities, with a view to achieving increased complementarity and better division of labour in their activities;

The role of other relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector

21. *Underlines* the importance of the contribution of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to the implementation of conference outcomes;

22. *Stresses* the importance of promoting corporate environmental and social responsibility and accountability; this would include actions at all levels to:

(a) Encourage industry to improve social and environmental performance through voluntary initiatives, including environmental management systems, codes of conduct, certification and public reporting on environmental and social issues, taking into account such initiatives as the International Organization for Standardization standards and Global Reporting Initiative guidelines on sustainability reporting, bearing in mind principle 11 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;[5]

(b) Encourage dialogue between enterprises and the communities in which they operate and other stakeholders;

(c) Encourage financial institutions to incorporate sustainable development considerations in their decision-making processes;

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[5] *Report of the World Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.

(d) Develop workplace-based partnerships and programmes, including training and education programmes;

Review of progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits

23. *Stresses* the utmost importance of regular review, in accordance with the provisions defined by the respective outcomes and follow-up processes, of the progress made in the implementation of the commitments undertaken at individual major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

24. *Also stresses* that review is important for assessing the progress made in the implementation of commitments at all levels;

25. *Further stresses* that all review and follow-up processes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields must focus on the progress made in the implementation of commitments;

26. *Emphasizes* that the review of the major United Nations conferences and summits should, inter alia, identify constraints and obstacles faced in relation to implementation;

27. *Stresses* the need to make maximum use of existing United Nations mechanisms for the purpose of reviewing implementation of commitments made within the United Nations system in key areas of development and, in this regard:

(a) *Recalls* the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development, and invites the Trade and Development Board to contribute, within its mandate, to the implementation and to the review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, under its relevant agenda items;

(b) *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to invite the President of the Trade and Development Board to present the outcomes of such reviews to the Council;

(c) *Also invites* the Economic and Social Council to include representatives of the Trade and Development Board in the high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization;

(d) *Reiterates* the importance of making fuller use of and strengthening the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the relevant intergovernmental bodies and the governing bodies of other institutional stakeholders, for the purpose of conference follow-up and coordination and, in this regard, decides to assess during its fifty-eighth session the functioning of the follow-up mechanisms set up in Monterrey in accordance with chapter III of the Monterrey Consensus;

28. *Invites* Member States, as well as organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and non-governmental actors, to contribute to the review and follow-up processes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related

fields, consistent with their mandates, through the assessment of progress made in the implementation of their respective commitments, in accordance with the provisions of the outcomes of the respective United Nations summits and conferences;

29. *Reaffirms* the importance of indicators for the review of the progress made in the implementation of all the commitments of the major United Nations conferences and summits;

30. *Emphasizes* that the indicators used by the Secretariat in the context of the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits should be developed with the full participation of all countries and approved by the relevant intergovernmental bodies;

31. *Reiterates* that the Statistical Commission is the intergovernmental focal point for the elaboration and the review of the indicators used by the United Nations system for the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits at all levels and in this regard, encourages continued efforts by the Statistical Commission to further improve the list of indicators on the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, including by means of methodological and technical refinement of the existing indicators;

32. *Stresses* the need to apply and further develop indicators on means of implementation to evaluate progress towards conference goals in creating an enabling environment for development;

33. *Calls upon* the United Nations funds and programmes, the functional and regional commissions and the specialized agencies to keep under review the full range of indicators used in their reports and information networks, with full participation and ownership of Member States, with a view to avoiding duplication, as well as ensuring the transparency, consistency and reliability of these indicators;

34. *Stresses* the importance of building statistical capacity in all countries, including through statistical training, and of effective international support in this context for developing countries; and urges countries, the United Nations funds and programmes, the Secretariat, bilateral funding agencies, the Bretton Woods institutions and regional funding agencies to mobilize the required resources and coordinate their efforts to support national statistical capacity-building in developing countries, in particular in least developed countries;

35. *Emphasizes* in this regard the importance of the simplification and harmonization of requests of the United Nations system for reports by Member States, encourages further the collaboration between the various international organizations in the field of statistics and calls upon the concerned bodies and agencies of the United Nations to adopt, in consultation with Member States, simplified and harmonized methods and, in this regard, to support developing countries, where needed and requested, in the preparation of reports based on national data and statistics;

36. *Stresses* the need for continued intergovernmental assessment, within existing mechanisms, of the performance of the United Nations system in fulfilling its mandates with regard to the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, bearing

in mind, inter alia, the work of the United Nations Evaluation Group, the Results Oriented Annual Report methodologies and practices in other development agencies;

II. Integrated and coordinated follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits

The role of the General Assembly

37. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen its role as the highest intergovernmental mechanism for the formulation and appraisal of policy on matters relating to coordinated and integrated follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields;

38. *Recommends* greater consultation between the presidents and the bureaux of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to improve coordination between the Assembly and the Council, with the objective, inter alia, of contributing to a better consideration of the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits;

39. *Decides* to include in the annual agenda of the General Assembly an item entitled "Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields"; also decides to consider, under this item, the assessment of the implementation of the outcomes of the conferences and summits, and its impact on the achievement of the goals and targets of the conferences and summits, and to provide the necessary guidance for the further implementation of and follow-up to these outcomes; notes in this regard the emerging practice of holding high-level plenary meetings in the context of the general debate of the General Assembly; and further decides to consider, under this item, the chapters of the annual report of the Economic and Social Council relevant to the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including through the participation in its discussions of the President of the Council, and invites the Secretary-General to submit a report on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

The role of the Economic and Social Council

Functional commissions

Regional commissions

Governing bodies of funds and programmes

40. *Reiterates* that the Economic and Social Council should continue to strengthen its role as the central mechanism for system-wide coordination and thus promote the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related fields, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 50/227;

41. *Decides* that the Economic and Social Council should review by means of a cross-sectoral approach the progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their follow-up processes, and assess its impact on the achievement of the goals and targets of the conferences and summits; this review and assessment should be carried out on an annual basis, focusing on a particular common cross-sectoral thematic issue, at the coordination segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, on the basis, inter alia, of a report to be submitted by the Secretary-General;

42. *Requests*, in this regard, the Economic and Social Council to establish, not later than 2004, a multi-year work programme for the coordination segment of its substantive session, based on a focused and balanced list of cross-sectoral thematic issues, common to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits, including the objectives, goals and targets of the Millennium Declaration while respecting decisions to be taken by the Council regarding themes for 2004, bearing in mind decisions already taken by the Council regarding themes; this multi-year programme will enable the United Nations system and relevant stakeholders to prepare better their contributions to these discussions, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council;

43. *Underlines* that the theme of the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council could be related to the theme of the coordination segment, respecting decisions already made by the Council, thus enabling the Council to address both the policy and system-wide coordination aspects of the theme;

44. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to consider modalities for implementing necessary arrangements regarding the cross-sectoral thematic issues;

45. *Invites* the functional commissions and relevant follow-up mechanisms, as appropriate, to contribute, from their specific perspectives, to the assessment by the Economic and Social Council of the cross-sectoral thematic issue selected for the coordination segment of its substantive session, including through the possible participation of their chairpersons, suitably mandated, in the discussions on the cross-sectoral thematic issue in the Council;

46. *Requests* each functional commission to examine its methods of work in order to pursue better the implementation of outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, recognizing that there is no need for a uniform approach since each functional commission has its own specificity, while also noting that modern methods of work can better guarantee the review of progress in implementation at all levels, on the basis of a report with recommendations to be submitted by the Secretary-General to each functional commission and relevant subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council on their methods of work, in accordance with the provisions defined by the respective outcomes and relevant decisions taken by each body, bearing in mind progress recently achieved in this regard by certain commissions, especially the Commission on Sustainable Development; the functional commissions and other relevant bodies of the Economic and Social Council should report to the Council no later than 2005 on the outcome of this examination;

47. *Underscores* that the functional commissions, when mandated, should continue to have the primary responsibility for the review and assessment of

progress made in implementing United Nations conference documents, while taking on a new focus in their methods of work;

48. *Invites* the functional commissions to consider, in their deliberations, experiences and lessons learned by the United Nations funds and programmes in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits;

49. *Urges* the Economic and Social Council to make better use of the existing consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the work of the commissions and to dedicate more time to its review;

50. *Requests* the Statistical Commission to refine and finalize indicators to assess the implementation of commitments and the achievement of the development goals at the national, regional and international levels;

51. *Recognizes* the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, in the area of science and technology for development, as a forum for improving the understanding of science and technology issues and for the formulation of recommendations and guidelines on science and technology matters within both the United Nations system and the framework of integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits;

52. *Invites* the United Nations regional commissions in collaboration with other regional and subregional organizations and processes, as appropriate, to contribute, within their mandates, to the review of progress in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and to provide input to the discussions of the Economic and Social Council on the cross-sectoral thematic issues to be addressed in the coordination segment of its substantive session, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Council;

53. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and the World Trade Organization to contribute, within their respective mandates, to the consideration by the Economic and Social Council of the cross-sectoral thematic issues;

54. *Invites* the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to contribute to the consideration by the Economic and Social Council of the cross-sectoral thematic issues;

55. *Emphasizes* that the contribution of non-governmental organizations and the private sector to the work of the Economic and Social Council should be further encouraged and improved, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Council;

The role of the United Nations system, including the specialized agencies

56. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to make the maximum use of its existing coordination mechanisms in order to contribute to the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes and commitments of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields as a focus on the international agenda;

III. Consideration of the work of the General Assembly and its Second and Third Committees relevant to the implementation of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the modalities of reports submitted to the General Assembly

57. *Stresses* the need to enhance the role of the General Assembly in conference follow-up and in reviewing progress on implementation, by ensuring that the working methods of its plenary meetings and of its committees allow maximum focus, visibility and political energy in its work;

58. *Decides* to continue to explore ways and means for improving the work of the Second and Third Committees, including through more active participation of the United Nations system and all relevant intergovernmental stakeholders;

59. *Notes* that the consideration by the Second Committee and the Third Committee, as well as by the General Assembly in plenary meeting, of relevant agenda items should be coherent with the process of integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields;

60. *Reiterates* the need to promote greater coherence and complementarity between the work of the General Assembly and its Second and Third Committees; for this purpose the General Committee; of the General Assembly should ensure better coordination of the agendas of the Second and Third Committees; the Bureaux of the two Committee should review their respective programmes of work in order to exchange information on the issues discussed in each, identify potential areas of overlap or duplication and examine means of considering in a more coordinated manner issues related to the follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and summits make recommendations thereon to their respective Committees;

61. *Recommends* that consideration be given to the use of joint informal debate that can inform the work of each Committee; better use could be made of the General Assembly plenary debate for issues that are considered by both Committees;

62. *Also recommends* in this context that at its fifty-eighth session the Second Committee consider the indicative programme of work set out in the annex to the present resolution and take a decision thereon by December 2003;

63. *Invites* the Bureau of the Second Committee to ensure a practical and coherent organization of the work of the Committee, allowing better focus, visibility and participation;

64. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to improve its reports and to make them more analytical and action-oriented by highlighting critical areas requiring action by the General Assembly and, as appropriate, by making specific recommendations; all documents should be issued in hard copy within the specific time frames and page limits and in all official United Nations languages simultaneously; efforts should continue to be made to have all the documentation, in all official languages, available in electronic form;

65. *Underlines* that reports under the agenda items of the Second and Third Committees should continue to follow established reporting procedures, taking into account processes launched by resolution 57/300;

66. *Recognizes* the need to avoid requesting duplicative reports from the Secretary-General;

67. *Recommends* that debates in the plenary meetings and in the Second and Third Committees be more interactive, encourages the participation of relevant stakeholders in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and, in this regard, invites the Bureaux to consider making use of round tables, briefings and panels to inform the intergovernmental deliberations;

68. *Reiterates* that in order to strengthen the link between the debates and resolutions in the Second Committee, draft resolutions should continue to be tabled shortly after the relevant debate on agenda items and should take account of the debate;

69. *Recommends* that, in order to ensure that they have greater political impact, resolutions should be short, in particular as regards preambular parts, and should focus more on action-oriented operative paragraphs;

70. *Underlines* that consideration should be given to the biennialization or triennialization of agenda items;

IV. How best to address the review of the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including format and periodicity

71. *Stresses* that reviews and appraisals of the major United Nations conferences and summits should assess the progress made in implementation of commitments and provide the occasion to reaffirm the goals and objectives agreed at those conferences and summits, share best practices and lessons learned, and identify obstacles and constraints encountered, actions and initiatives to overcome them and important measures for the further implementation of their programmes of action, as well as new challenges and emerging issues;

72. *Recognizes* that the United Nations conferences and summits play a crucial role in raising awareness, mobilizing political will and public opinion, engaging civil society and the private sector and for taking stock of the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits by all relevant stakeholders at all levels;

73. *Emphasizes* that the periodicity and the format of the review of the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits should be decided on a case-by-case basis by the General Assembly, bearing in mind the relevant specific provisions, taking into account the needs, concerns and specific nature of the issue and the economic and political circumstances and developments, and also bearing in mind the need to continue efforts to use the existing structures, as well as the calendar of major United Nations events;

74. *Emphasizes* that the review processes should be focused on implementation;

75. *Stresses* that there is scope for a major event in 2005, possibly a comprehensive review, which could be politically attractive and powerful, bearing in mind that the General Assembly has decided to review in 2005 the progress achieved towards implementing all the commitments made in the Millennium Declaration, on the basis of a comprehensive report of the Secretary-General.

Annex

Indicative programme of work (Second Committee)

1. Macroeconomic policy questions:
   - (a) International trade and development;
   - (b) Science and technology for development;
   - (c) International financial system and development;
   - (d) External debt crisis and development;
   - (e) Commodities.
2. Implementation of and follow-up to the Monterrey Consensus:
   - (a) Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development;
   - (b) High-level dialogue for the implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development (fifty-eighth session);*
   - (c) High-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership.
3. Globalization and interdependence.
4. Eradication of poverty, capacity-building and other development issues:
   - (a) Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006);
   - (b) Women in development;
   - (c) Human resources development (fifty-eighth session);
   - (d) International migration and development (fifty-eighth session);
   - (e) Culture and development (fifty-ninth session);
   - (f) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of funds of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin;
   - (g) Training and research

     United Nations Institute for Training and Research

     United Nations System Staff College in Turin, Italy (fifty-eighth session)

     United Nations University (fifty-ninth session);
   - (h) Implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade;

* Also an item in the plenary.

(i) Industrial development cooperation (fifty-ninth session).

5. Sustainable development:

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

(b) Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind;

(e) Sustainable mountain development;

(f) United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development;

(g) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 (fifty-eighth session);

(h) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

(i) Convention on Biological Diversity.

6. Habitat:

Implementation of the outcome of the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and of the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly.

7. Operational activities for development:

(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

(b) Triennial Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System (fifty-ninth session);

(c) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (fifty-eighth session).

8. Groups of countries in special situations:

(a) Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

(b) Specific actions relating to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developed countries (fifty-eighth session);

(c) Outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation;

(d) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy (fifty-ninth session).

9. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources.

10. Report of the Economic and Social Council.